

Application No. 09/919,891

Reply to Office Action of December 2, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 35-82 are active in this application. Editorial changes have been made to the claims as discussed with Examiner Fronda the week of February 21, 2005. Claims 50 and 51 have been revised to refer to at least 95% of 99% homology. The nonelected claims have been revised for consistency with the elected claims to facilitate their possible rejoinder. They have also been directed to methods for producing L-methionine. New Claim 82 finds support in the specification on page 5, lines 9-10. Accordingly, the Applicants do not believe that any new matter has been added. In view of the above revisions, the Applicants believe that all the remaining rejections have been addressed.

CONCLUSION

In view of these amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

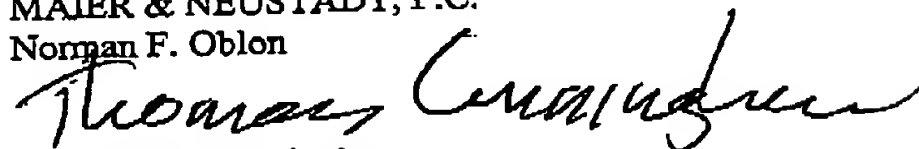
Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 06/04)OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Norman F. Oblon

Thomas M. Cunningham
Registration No. 45,394